

REMARKS

The January 12 Official action rejects claim 30 (currently cancelled) as unpatentable over "Seeman" (US patent 4,498,918), claims 1-4 and 21 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over "Virey" (US Reissue patent 34785), and claims 13-19 and 24-29 under 35 USC 103 (a) as unpatentable over Virey in view of "Eagle et al" (US patent 5.888.266)..

Of the foregoing claims, only numbers 18 and 21 remain after the amendments requested above. These claims are limited to a two step heating method where a mixture of methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene is used in one of the steps and that gas plus air is used in the other of the steps. None of the references suggests such a process; the instant application discloses (paragraph [0018] of the application as published) that MAPP gas mixed with air produces a heat transfer system which will maintain a sustained temperature on the average of 1800° K. If claims 18 and 21 are deemed to be prima facie obvious, this result is believed to be unexpected, and to overcome the prima facie obviousness.

New claim 31 is directed to a method for heating glass contacting surfaces of glass forming apparatus which comprises the steps of causing combustion of a fuel gas adjacent the surfaces to be heated so that its combustion causes the heating, wherein, initially, the fuel gas is one containing methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene or a mixture of approximately 90 percent by volume of methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene and approximately 10 percent by volume of air, and, thereafter, using a second fuel gas. The second fuel gas is a mixture consisting essentially of approximately 90 percent by volume of methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene and approximately 10 percent by volume of natural gas,

a mixture consisting essentially of approximately 90 percent by volume of the methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene and approximately 10 percent by volume of air,

a mixture consisting essentially of approximately 80 percent by volume of said gas containing methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene, approximately 10 percent by volume of air, and approximately 10 percent by volume of natural gas, or

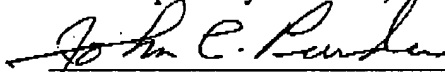
a mixture consisting essentially of 60 to 80 percent by volume of methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene and approximately 20 to 40 percent by volume of natural gas.

Claim 31 covers a two step process where either of two alternative first steps is followed by any of four second steps. A mixture of methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene is used in one of the first steps, and that gas plus air is used in the other. The cited art does not suggest such use of a mixture of air and methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene. Likewise, the prior art does not suggest such use of a mixture of methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene followed by the use of any of the four mixtures specified by claim 31. Accordingly, the processes of claim 31 and of dependent claims 32-39 are neither disclosed nor suggested by any known prior art, and are believed to be patentable.

Claim 40 is directed to the embodiment discussed in paragraph 51 of the subject application, as published. This claim is believed to be patentable because none of the cited art shows the process where the gas burned is a mixture of 80 parts by volume of methylacetylene, propadiene and propylene with 10 parts by volume of air and 10 parts by volume of natural gas.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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